

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LUCILLE COCHRAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today for a constituent of mine—Mrs. Lucille Cochran's 100th birthday. Mrs. Cochran will gather with her friends and family to mark the occasion on February 9, 2007.

Lucille "Mama Cill" Cochran was born in Lee County, Alabama, where she resides today with her loving family and church community. "Mama Cill" credits long life to her faith and trust in God. This mother of 9, grandmother of 35, and great grandmother of 77, enjoys entertaining her family in her kitchen where she serves her Alabama nugget baked sweet potatoes and coffee.

Mrs. Cochran's vibrant personality and active life make her an important part of her community. In her own special way, she serves as a shining example for us all. On this special occasion, I salute this remarkable woman for her long life, and her dedication to family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHIL MARCUS ESSER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil Marcus Esser for work on behalf of the Boulder City Community.

Phil is a very accomplished folk singer and musical producer and has been a resident of Boulder City Nevada for the past six years. Since moving to Boulder City, Phil has immersed himself in charitable and community orientated projects, most notably as the choir director for St. Andrew's Church.

Most recently, Phil performed at the Boulder City American Legion Hall, raising over \$4000 for Emergency Aid of Boulder City. This show was the first in a series of four such performances intending to support a local cause.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Phil Marcus Esser. His work on behalf of the local community is admirable and I applaud his efforts.

RECOGNIZING TAVIA MAREZ AS OKALOOSA COUNTY'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Tavia Marez as Okaloosa County's Teacher of the Year.

On January 30, 2007, Tavia Marez was announced Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Marez joined the school district administration in

1997 with an educational background in Genetics and Developmental Biology and as a former researcher at Johns Hopkins University. Over the past 10 years, Mrs. Marez has proudly served the school district, and Okaloosa County is honored to have her as one of their own.

Tavia Marez currently teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry at Fort Walton Beach High School in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Mrs. Marez is aware that if her students are anything like she once was, she must make Chemistry enjoyable. To get her students interested, Tavia Marez incorporates creative techniques, such as: songs, dances, and mnemonic devices.

At the same time, to ensure that she is giving her students the best preparation needed to succeed, Mrs. Marez keeps in constant communication with the AP College Board and college chemistry professors. Ten weeks prior to the AP Chemistry exam, you can find Mrs. Marez on Saturdays offering extra help to her students, who in turn mentor elementary school students from Edwins Elementary School. Since Mrs. Marez began teaching AP Chemistry, the percentage of students who pass the AP exam drastically increased from around 0 percent to 70 and the number of students taking the course from 12 to 75.

To be honored as Teacher of the Year, the proof of greatness lies well beyond the title—it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. While Mrs. Marez humbly credits her fellow colleagues with helping her get to where she is today, it is her spirit, dedication and passion for teaching, which she has developed over the past 10 years that has won her the honor of this distinguished award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Marez for her great achievement as Teacher of the Year and her continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School and in the Okaloosa County School District.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ALEXANDER HENRY FULLER

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the life and service of one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant Alexander Henry Fuller, who gave his life to his country while serving in Iraq. I rise so that the House of Representatives can join me in conveying our deepest condolences to his wonderful wife Stacey and to his entire family.

Alex died on January 25 at the age of twenty one, while serving in Iraq. He came from New Bedford and was raised on Cape Cod. He soon fell in love with Stacey and together they were married. Today Stacey is expecting their child. Alex had dreams of someday owning a house on Cape Cod, working as a police officer and raising a family.

But he was a young man with a mission. He had another priority in his life, to answer the call of service to his country. He loved his

country and he loved serving in the Army, and in the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division based in Fort Carson Colorado. Each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude. The courage he demonstrated through his service will always be remembered.

I wish to join with my colleagues in expressing our condolences to his family and friends. We hope and pray that they find peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

Sean Gonsalves, a reporter from the Cape Cod Times wrote a moving tribute that I wish to share with you.

'WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER'

(By Sean Gonsalves)

One had a Bible in his hand.

The other Army officer carried the news Anastacia "Stacey" Fuller and her husband's adopted family had been losing sleep over—wondering if their hero, Army Sgt. Alexander Henry Fuller, was alive.

He was not, they were informed late Thursday night.

Yesterday, Sgt. Fuller's 19-year-old widow still seemed disoriented, as if the repercussions from the improvised explosive device that killed Fuller and another member of his convoy in Baghdad had reverberated across the Atlantic Ocean, all the way to the Centerville home the 21-year-old soldier had shared with his wife and in-laws.

Pfc. Michael C. Balsley, 23, of Hayward, Calif., was also killed in Thursday's explosion, according to the Department of Defense.

Stacey Fuller wasn't sure if her husband's remains were in Maryland or Delaware. She wasn't sure when his casket would be brought home to Cape, or when the funeral and burial would be held.

All she knew was that the father of her yet-unborn daughter was "fearless" and had "a huge heart."

Sitting in the showroom of her family's used-car dealership on Yarmouth Road in Hyannis, Stacey Fuller rested her hands on her bulging belly as the small flags lining the awning outside flapped in the winter wind.

"He was very determined. He always said, 'I need to help my Joes,'" she recalled, explaining the love he had for the Fort Carson, Colo.-based 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

"We tried to talk him out of going because of how dangerous it is, but we couldn't," said Fuller's mother-in-law, Irena Zinov.

Fuller, who was born in New Bedford and raised in Centerville, saw the Army as the best way to prepare for becoming a police officer.

Fuller's legacy was his concern for others, his uncle Robert Mogavero of Millis said in a phone interview yesterday.

"At the same time, he had a great zest for life. Some kids have plans that are a little far-fetched, but his head was screwed on straight. His plans were not beyond his reach," he said.

Mogavero described Fuller as a soldier "dedicated to God and country." "As a soldier he was exemplary, and we couldn't be prouder of him as a family."

Zach Hallet of Osterville remembered his best friend as the toughest, funniest person he's known.

"And he believed in what he was doing. He was proud of being a sergeant and he was proud of being a leader."

Hallet also described his fallen friend as "fearless"—a trait his wife said she'll call on in the months ahead as she prepares to give birth in April.